Mountain Weather Forecast

Northwest Highlands

Including Sutherland, Ben Wyvis, Wester Ross, The Cuillin, Glen Affric, Glen Shiel and Knoydart
Forecast valid from 06:00 on Saturday 30 Dec 2023 until 23:59 on Sunday 31 Dec 2023

Forecast Issued on Saturday 30 Dec 2023 at 03:00 by Met Office Aberdeen

Confidence: High for Saturday and for less severe conditions on Sunday, but lower for northern extent of showers on Sunday and Monday. Low for broader weather from Tuesday.

Headline for Saturday 30 Dec 2023: An increasingly cloudy morning. Persistent snow and gales in the afternoon.

Mountain weather hazards on Saturday 30 Dec 2023

Blizzards
High Likelihood

Heavy persistent snow
Medium Likelihood

Storm force winds
Medium Likelihood

Gales
High Likelihood

Severe chill effect
High Likelihood

Poor visibility
High Likelihood

Thunderstorms
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
No Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m					
Time					
06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Cloudy	Light snow	Heavy snow	Heavy snow	Heavy snow	Heavy snow
Precipitation probability					
<05%	10%	50%	80%	80%	70%

Forecast for Saturday 30 Dec 2023

Weather: A cold bright start, but high cloud thickening and lowering from the south through the morning. Persistent snow and severe summit gales reaching Knoydart late morning, all ranges by mid-afternoon. Snow often heavy after dusk, especially across Caithness hills, but turning to rain below 700-800m. Mostly dry from late evening, some clearing skies in the west.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 70% in the morning. 30% in the afternoon.

Low cloud and visibility: Very good visibility in the morning with the main cloud base well above the summits. Some patchy cloud above 800m across Caithness and Easter Ross hills. Cloud lowering to 400m as snow arrives, although may occasionally lift to around 700m in the west. Near zero visibility in blizzards on the hills.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/specialist-forecasts/mountain
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Forecast for Saturday 30 Dec 2023

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph) Wind Direction (blowing from)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1000	20/23 E	36/43 E	48/58 E	48/61 E	38/48 E	21/28 E	16/22 E
900	19/22 E	35/41 E	45/56 E	46/58 E	38/48 E	21/28 E	17/22 E
600	12/15 E	23/32 E	31/43 E	35/48 E	27/37 E	19/27 E	15/20 E
300	2/14 E	5/28 E	9/39 E	13/46 E	9/36 E	6/20 E	5/16 E
Glen	7/11 E	21/37 E	21/42 E	26/50 E	21/40 E	16/25 E	13/20 E

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1000	-3/-11	-3/-13	-4/-14	-4/-14	-4/-14	-3/-10	-2/-9
900	-2/-10	-3/-12	-3/-13	-3/-13	-3/-13	-2/-9	-2/-8
600	-0/-6	-0/-8	-1/-9	-1/-9	-1/-9	0/-6	0/-5
300	-1/-2	0/-3	1/-3	1/-4	0/-4	1/-3	1/-2
Glen	2/-1	3/-3	4/-2	3/-3	3/-3	4/-1	4/0
Freezing Level*	300m	300m	400m	400m	400m	500m	700m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Met Office Aberdeen Meteorologist's View
Extremely challenging conditions on the hills with near zero visibility, heavy snow and severe summit gales making any progress very difficult, especially at higher levels. Note, freezing levels around 400m higher across the far north early afternoon.

Forecast for Sunday 31 Dec 2023
Weather: Mostly dry, although showers in the far south across Knoydart, most frequent during the early hours and morning. Eastern hills likely to be rather cloudy at times, best sunny spells across the northwest. Little change in the evening, with the northwest having the best chance of clear summits by midnight.

Maximum wind: Generally southeast 5-10 gusting 15 mph, perhaps 20-25 mph at times on the higher summits, occasionally becoming variable.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 60-80%, best chance in the northwest

Low cloud and visibility: Visibility mostly good or very good, with many hills cloud free. Some patchy cloud above 900m at times, most likely across the Cuillin and the southwest, perhaps also over the Caithness and Easter Ross hills.

Temperature: **Glens:** Plus 2 or 3 Celsius.
At 800m: Minus 1 Celsius.
Freezing level: 700-800m.

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